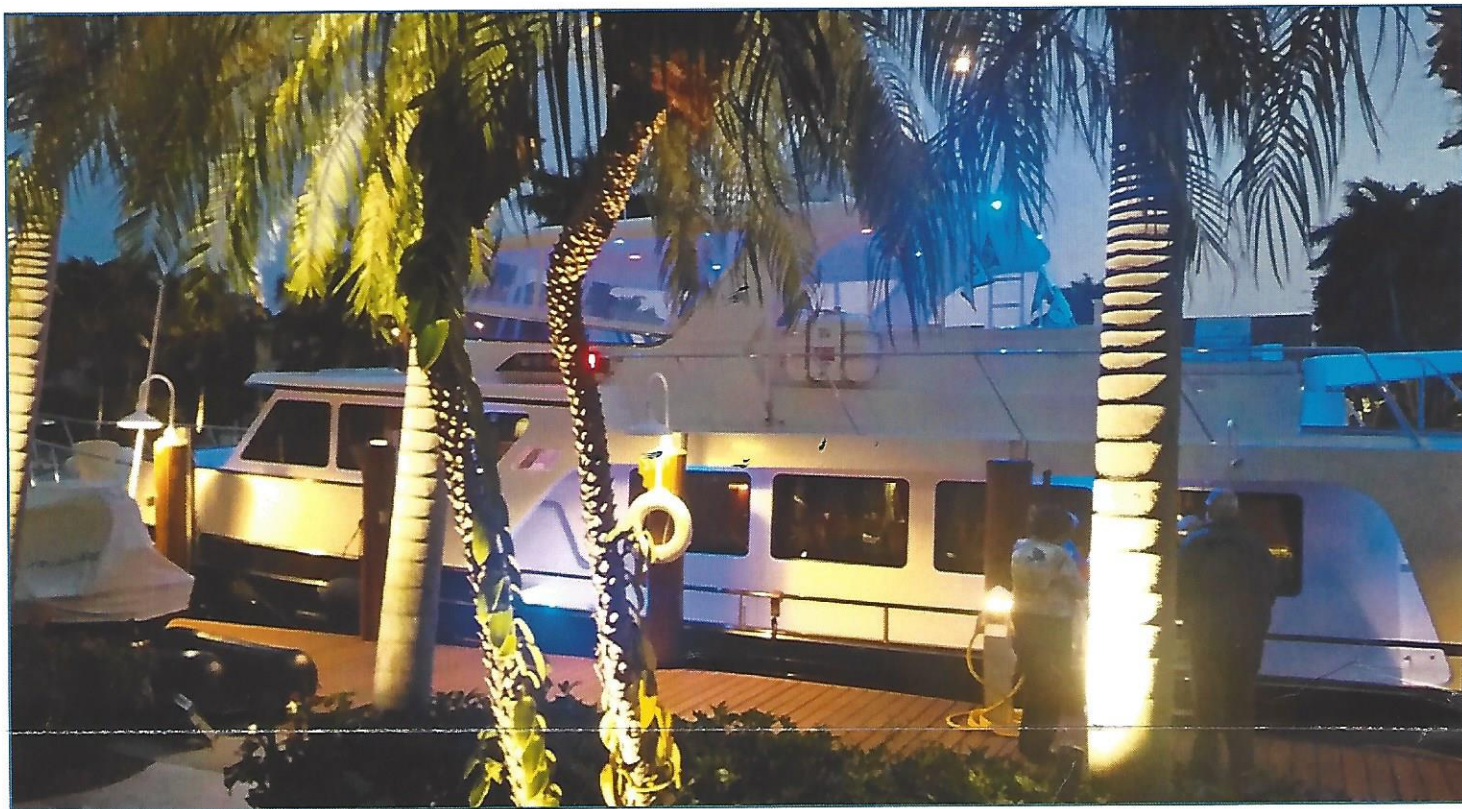


Another Fun Florida Rendezvous



The Hatteras Classic Club had a wonderful long weekend in Fort Lauderdale, February 26-March 1. When putting this together, I expected about 16 people, but there was a great turnout of 26, a fine show of camaraderie!

For those who chose to arrive Thursday, which was almost everyone, we met at the Bahia Mar Hotel and had a short walk to Coconut's Restaurant for dinner. The food was good but the restaurant was a bit loud and we weren't able to talk back and forth much. Everyone, though, had a good time seeing old and new boating friends.

On Friday, there was a lot of relaxing, shopping and visiting, and some took the water taxi up and down the Intracoastal, getting a running narrative from the boat driver along the way. For the afternoon, John Northrup had arranged a visit to the Resolve Salvage Company.

This company trains bridge crews to operate large ships, including cruise ships. In fact, Resolve Salvage has a five-year contract with Royal

Caribbean and trains all their bridge crews. The centerpiece of this training is a state-of-the-art ship simulator that is able to re-create thousands of varying combinations of weather, speed, current, traffic and emergency situations. It was fascinating and those who went absolutely loved it!

Friday evening began at our home with cocktails on the patio followed by a cruise on the Intracoastal aboard "Fun @ Sea.Calm." We returned to the dock and had a delicious barbecue dinner with plenty to



[HATTERAS CLASSIC CLUB NEWSLETTER]



eat and even more desserts. After dinner, a speaker from the US Power Squadron talked about spouses' responsibilities if something should happen to the captain. Probably all members could use a bit of training about this.

Saturday, the men were met at the hotel for a visit to all the favorite local yachting stores: Sailorman, with all its used boat parts, and West Marine's flagship store. This was followed by lunch at an outdoor restaurant.

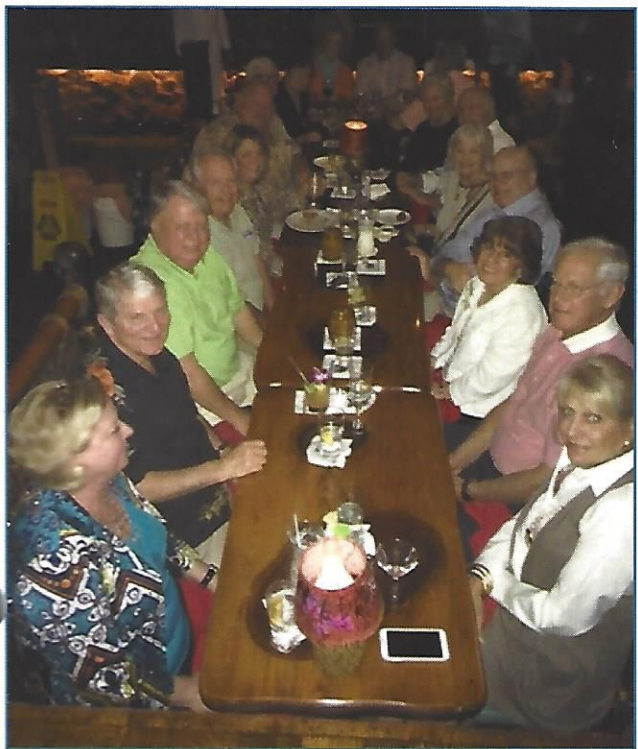
The ladies were picked up to visit the Fairchild Botanical Gardens in Miami. It was a pretty bad start when, a few minutes out, we hit a horrible rainstorm. It doesn't usually rain that hard for that long in the winter in Fort Lauderdale. After much debate about continuing, we checked iPhones and iPads and found it wasn't raining in Miami, so on we went. At the botanical garden, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the striking outdoor Dale Chihuly glass displays, the exotic butterfly garden and all the varied tropical foliage. We were about to have lunch at the garden's café, when it looked like rain again, so we got back in the car just in time and left.

If we thought the rain going to Miami was bad, it was twice as bad going back to Fort Lauderdale. Many of the roads were flooded and a trip that should have taken 40 minutes took over 2 hours. Being the driver, I must admit I was a bit stressed! Everyone was helpfully providing alternate routes from the GPS on their iPhones and luckily, we got back just in time to change and get to the Mai Kai Polynesian Restaurant for dinner and a lively show.

Sunday topped off the weekend. Most gathered for a short ride to Lips Restaurant for a drag gospel brunch. It was a really great time; we enjoyed the food, the show and the "waitresses!"

All in all, everyone who attended the weekend had a wonderful time and Andy and I hope to see each of you at the September HCC National Rendezvous in Port Annapolis.

Jeanne Dixon
"Fun @ Sea. Calm"



[HATTERAS CLASSIC CLUB NEWSLETTER]

